

12/13/18

Gary Rosenberg
1988 Quaker St.
Northbridge, MA 01534

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write to support the Comments of Massachusetts Community Media, Inc. (MassAccess) and the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (CAPA) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC’s September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05- 311.

Upon hearing of the proposed rule changes that will gravely affect our local access television stations, I was prompted to send you this letter. These stations are important to the local community. They provide educational and governmental services along with a wealth of information that can be shared in the local communities. In no way do I think that this should be enacted. I strongly suggest that the current path this is on is deviated from. We as a town, in the general population as a whole, provide these companies with the ability to make billions of dollars. In turn, they are providing a small percentage of funding (that is funded through the subscribers) seems like a fair deal to me for the people. Please rethink your current course of action and keep the people, not the lobbyists in mind when making your final decision. Please consider these following facts:

- The FCC lacks authority to impair private franchise contracts
- Section 622 of the Cable Act defines “Franchise Fees” and the FCC has no right to redefine
- Any attempt to redefine “Franchise Fees” weakens the authority of local municipalities
- The rulemaking invents “Cable-Related In-kind Contributions and “Fair Market Valuation” where there is no precedent
- Section 622 of the Cable Act states that “[a]ny Federal agency may not regulate the amount of the franchise fees paid by a cable operator.”]

Community media stations allow the residents of Northbridge to watch and create uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. Such was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,
Gary Rosenberg